(d) if not the reasons for non filling up of the backlog vacancy of SCs/ STs and by when it is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) During the last five years, *i.e.* 1998-99 to 2002-2003, 54 Chemical Assistants, Grade-II were promoted to the grade of Chemical Assistant Grade-I, 21 Chemical Assistant Grade I were promoted to the grade of Assistant Chemical Examiner and 4 Assistant Chemical Examiners were promoted to the grade of Chemical Examiner Grade-II. In addition, 27 Assistant Chemical Examiners were promoted, on *ad-hoc* basis, to the grade of Chemical Examiner Grade-II.

(b) to (d) Out of the 54 Chemical Assistant Grade-II who were promoted to Chemical Assistant Grade-I, 13 Officers belonged to the SC category. Vacancies for ST category could not be filled because of non-availability of eligible candidate in the feeder cadre. Similarly, in the absence of eligible candidates in the feeder cadre, no Chemical Assistant Grade-I could be promoted to the Grade of Assistant Chemical Examiner. Like-wise one post reserved for SC category in the grade of Chemical Examiner Grade-II could not be filled up on regular basis because of non-availability of eligible officer in the feeder grade. These vacancies are being carried forward to the subsequent year for promoting available eligible officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Generous sops to cricketers

4683. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Budget 2003 proposals bestow generous sops to our cricketers;

(b) if so, whether cricketers already earn millions by way of prize money, match fees, advertising/endorsement payments etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider withdrawing the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Funds transferred to NLCPR

4684. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund liable for transfer to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources as per Government's policy decisions from the unspent amount out

of the 10 per cent budgetary allocation made for NER during each of last three years;

(b) the year-wise actual amount transferred to NLCPR, amount cleared by the Planning Commission for utilization in the NER from the NLCPR during the period;

(c) whether the entire amount is being utilized as per the policy decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND RAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The total amount available to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) during the financial years 1998-99 to 2001-02 was Rs. 5806.07 crore. After making adjustments for releases made from the NLCPR and North-Eastern Council (NEC) during these years, the opening balance for NLCPR for the financial year 2002-03 as on 1.04.2002 was established at Rs. 2853.97 crore.

(b) The year-wise details regarding amount accrued to the NLCPR are as follows :

Year		Rupees in crore
1998-99	:	1189.85
1999-2000	:	1571.78
2000-01	:	1440.60
2001-02	:	1603.84

Figures for the year 2002-03 are not reconciled.

(c) NLCPR is administered through a set of guidelines. The entire fund provided to NLCPR is utilized in accordance with these guidelines.

(d) The funds released to North-Eastern States year-wise is as under :

Year		Rupees in crore
1998-99	:	106.34
1999-2000	:	409.81
2000-01	:	309.25
2001-02	:	493.26
2002-03	:	550.00

(e) Does not arise